

FEMICIDE IN ONTARIO

MAY 1ST 2021 - MAY 31ST 2021

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Background

The following report provides an overview of femicide in Ontario from May 1st - May 31st 2021. It is important to note that the information pertaining to these femicide cases may be incomplete due to ongoing police investigations. As investigations continue there will likely be further details released, allowing for a more thorough analysis of femicide trends in Ontario. It is also important to note the total number of confirmed femicides may not be accurate. The OAITH femicide list relies on media reporting to track femicide cases and as a result these totals may not capture all of the femicide victims who may have been omitted from media coverage.

For the purpose of the following report, the suspects will be referred to as perpetrators, however, it is important to note that while charges may have been laid against a suspect, these charges have often not yet been proven in a court of law. While information may have been provided about the suspect through police and media reports, it is important to note that the accused has not been found guilty in many cases and there is the potential for this information to change depending on further police investigations and court verdicts.

If you are aware of a media report between May 1st and May 31st that isn't captured in this report you can send your inquiry to Lauren Hancock via email: lauren@oaith.ca.

Femicide Rates Comparison

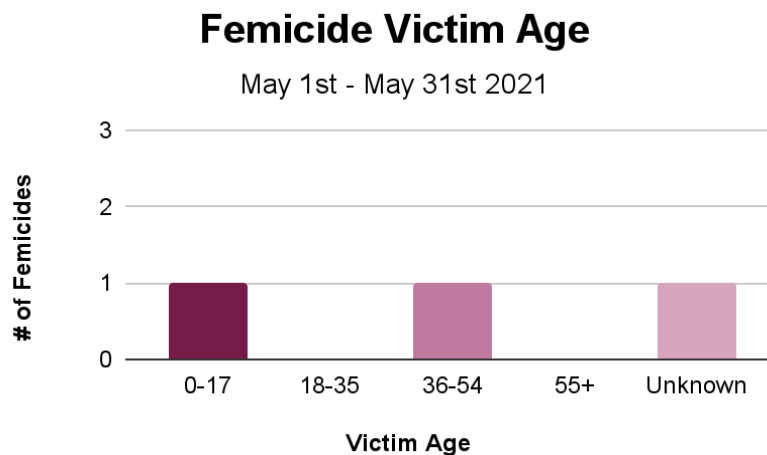
A total of three confirmed femicide cases occurred between May 1st and May 31st, 2021. Additionally, there is one unconfirmed femicide case that is currently being investigated by police, and has not yet been confirmed as a femicide due to the lack of available information released in media reports. Unconfirmed femicides and other suspicious deaths continue to be monitored for police announcements relating to suspects, criminal charges and additional information relating to victim/perpetrator relationships.

The table below provides a monthly comparison of current femicide rates to the previous year. As can be seen below, a decrease in the number of femicides was reported in December 2020 when compared to the previous year's data. However, an increase in femicides has been reported for each subsequent month. There has been a total increase of 8 confirmed femicides to date.

2019-2020	# of Femicides	2020-2021	# of Femicides	Change
Dec 2019	6	Dec 2020	5	(-) Decrease
Jan 2020	3	Jan 2021	4	(+) Increase
Feb 2020	4	Feb 2021	7	(+) Increase
Mar 2020	3	Mar 2021	4	(+) Increase
Apr 2020	2	Apr 2021	4	(+) Increase
May 2020	1	May 2021	3	(+) Increase
Total:	19	Total:	27	(+) Increase

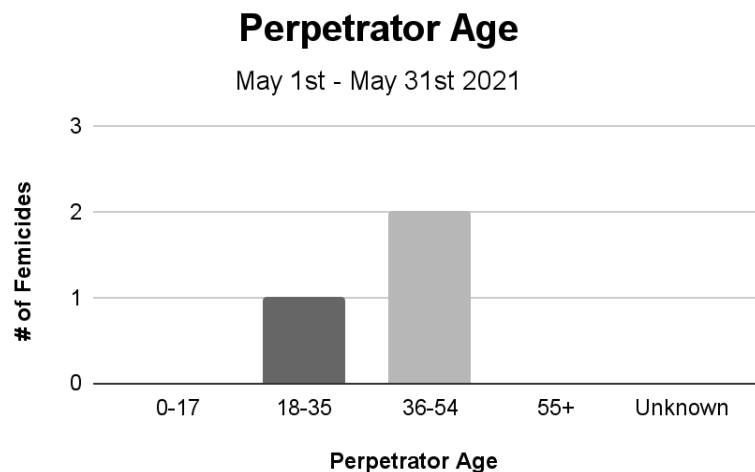
Victim and Perpetrator Age Comparison

As illustrated below, femicide cases that occurred in May involved victims between the ages of 0-17 and 36-54. One-third (33.3%) of all victims were between the ages of 0-17 and similarly one-third (33.3%) of all victims were between the ages of 36-54. In one case, (33.3%) the victims age has been coded as unknown due to a lack of identifying information available in the media. A lack of accessible victim demographic information, such as age, creates challenges when analyzing femicide trends and examining potential risk factors such as age. In order to properly analyze femicide trends and risk factors, it is imperative that this information is made available through police disclosure.



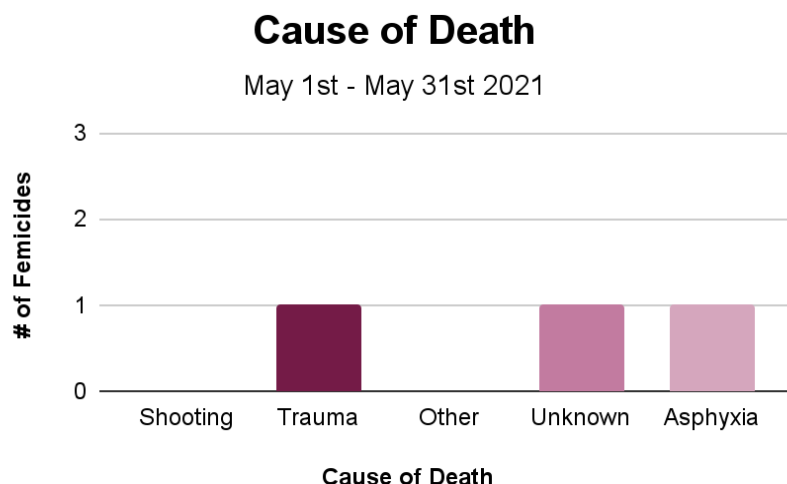
When examining the age of femicide perpetrators for all confirmed femicides that occurred in May, the majority of cases (66.7% or 2/3) involved a perpetrator between the ages of 36-54. The other case (33.3% or 1/3) involved a perpetrator between the ages of 18-35. While this is a small data set these findings are consistent with previous findings. The [most recent femicide](#)

[report](#) found that the majority of femicide cases involved a perpetrator between the ages of 18 to 35 (40.54%) or between the ages of 36-54 (27.03%). Perpetrators belonging to these age groups accounted for 67.57% of all femicide perpetrators included in the previous analysis. These are important indicators to track as they highlight the critical need for intervention and education with child and youth between the ages of 0-17, before they are engaging in violence, as a means of preventing future gender-based violence and more specifically femicide.



Cause of Death

As highlighted in the graph below, in 33.3% (1/3) of femicide cases in May the cause of death was reported to be trauma, which can be defined as any death resulting from a stabbing, an assault or any other blunt force trauma that results in death. Additionally the cause of death was ruled to be asphyxia in 33.3% (1/3) of femicide cases. In 33.3% (1/3) of femicide cases the cause of death has not yet been determined or released to the public and this data may change pending further police investigation.



Victim-Perpetrator Relationship

Victim-perpetrator relationships are coded as follows:

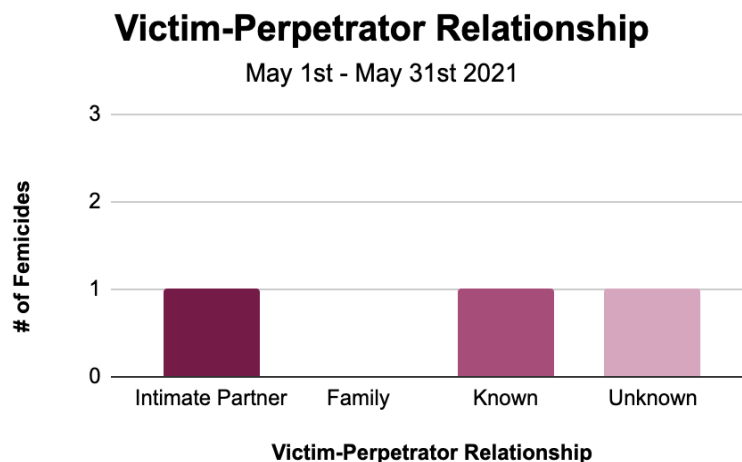
Intimate Partner: current or former intimate partner

Family: Father, son, nephew

Known: Acquaintance, neighbour

Unknown: Was a targeted attack/ at-risk due to gender and details about the nature of the relationship are unknown or unreleased

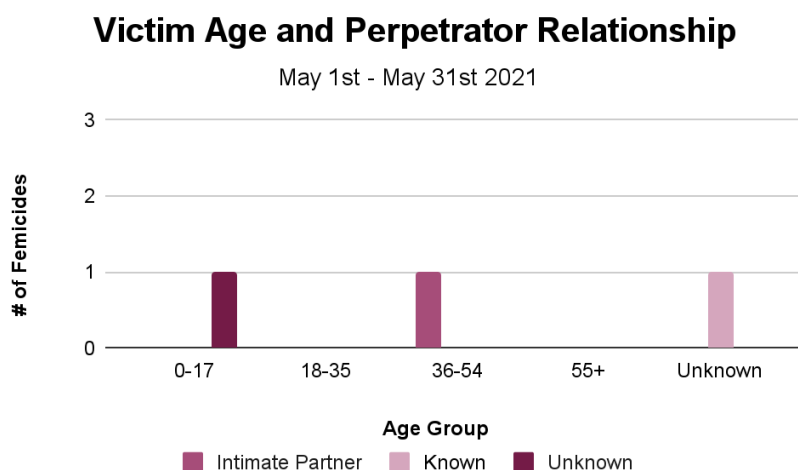
As illustrated in the graph below, during the month of May 2021, 33.3% (1/3) of femicide victims were killed by an intimate partner, in this case the victim's husband. Media reports have indicated this was a femicide-suicide. One-third (33.3%) of femicide victims were killed by someone known to them. Media reports have indicated that the victim and perpetrator were known to each other but have not provided any more details pertaining to the type of relationship. Additionally, the perpetrator-victim relationship for 33.3% (1/3) of femicides has been coded as unknown due to an ongoing police investigation, however this may change pending further police disclosure. The lack of police disclosure creates challenges for ongoing femicide research as disclosure regarding the victim and perpetrator's relationship is needed to be able to thoroughly analyze femicide trends and risk factors.



Victim Age and Relationship Type

The graph below provides a comparison of femicide victims' ages and their relationship with the perpetrator. The graph illustrates that 33.3% (1/3) of femicide victims were between the ages of 0-17. The relationship with the perpetrator has been coded as

unknown due to the ongoing murder investigation. One-third (33.3%) of femicide victims between the ages of 36-54 were killed by an intimate partner. As previously indicated, the perpetrator was the victim's husband. Additionally, one (33.3%) victim's age was coded as unknown due to limited police disclosure. The media has reported that the perpetrator was known to the victim but has released very limited information pertaining to the femicide. Given the small data set and limited information provided by the media and police, no distinct trends have been identified. However, the data does indicate that women belonging to many different age groups are experiencing violence from a number of sources.



Confirmed Femicides May 1st - May 31st 2021 Total - 3

Toronto Region

Daisy Sehgal - Toronto

National Media: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/homicide-two-dead-scarborough-1.6038874>

Local Media: <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2021/05/24/man-woman-found-dead-in-scarborough-home-toronto-police-say.html>

Television Media: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7889578/daisy-sehgal-murder-toronto-police/>

North Region

Lynnora Mikenak - Mishkeegogamang First Nation

National Media: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/mishkeegogamang-first-nation-homicide-17-year-old-1.6021953>

Local Media: <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/police-lay-murder-charge-in-mishkeegogamang-first-nation-assault-3761332>

Television Media:

Jane Doe - Sault Ste Marie

National Media:

Local Media: <https://www.saultthisweek.com/news/man-considered-armed-and-dangerous-police>

Television Media: <https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/sault-police-investigate-homicide-after-body-found-1.5432722>

Unconfirmed Femicides

May 1st - May 31st 2021

Total - 1

Central Region:

Jane Doe - Waterloo

National Media: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/two-charged-with-indignity-to-a-body-after-woman-found-dead-in-waterloo-1.6023476>

Local Media: <https://www.therecord.com/news/crime/2021/05/12/body-found-in-waterloo-apartment-two-men-in-custody.html>

Television Media: <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/men-charged-with-indignity-to-a-dead-body-in-suspicious-death-investigation-1.5423461>